

THE FRANKS SITE POT AND BEAR EFFIGY PIPE

by
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Figure one shows a pottery vessel that Col. Raymond C. Vietzen recovered in 1941 at the Franks Site, on the banks of the Vermilion River in Brownhelm, Lorain County, Ohio. It was on display at Indian Ridge Museum for many years. Col. Vietzen created a display in his museum so as to show how it looked when it was discovered 'in situ' at the Franks Site. The pot was found in a refuse pit near a burial and dates to circa A.D. 1450. After his extensive work at that site, he concluded that it was an 'Erie village.' The pot is an extremely important artifact from this area, and we are very proud to be able to preserve it now at the New Indian Ridge Museum and keep it in the area. The vessel is shown twice and described in Col. Viet-

zen's *From the Earth They Came* 1978 publication on pages 119-120.

He stated that "...its capacity is over a quart. Grit tempering was used in this thin walled pot. The rim section has been thickened by adding an extra strip of clay. The vessel is 7 inches in height with a rim diameter of 4 1/2 inches. The body diameter is 5 inches and the neck is 4 inches. It is very gracefully shaped, and it is a very thin ware. A bundle of twigs was used to embellish or roughen the surface. Circa 1450 A.D. This is one of the finest vessels taken from the site by the author."

Figure two shows the pot now at the New Indian Ridge Museum with three orig-

inal signs from Col. Vietzen's Indian Ridge Museum accompanying the vessel.

Figure three-five: A Hopewell black bear effigy pipe that was found in Erie County, Ohio. It has several holes where shell inlays were located. One hole still contains a shell inlay in figure five. The eyes of the bear originally had the shell inlays as well. This pipe was in the Col. Vietzen collection.

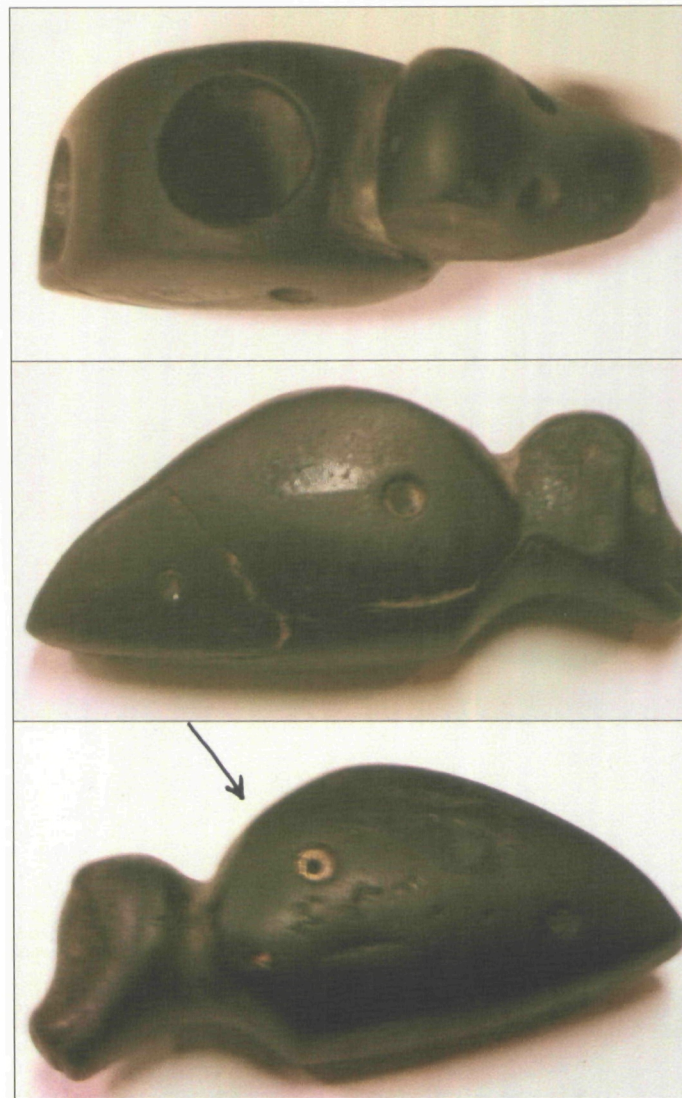
Both artifacts are documented in the Vietzen auction sale catalogs. These pieces were generously donated by Jean and Jay Rounds. The pot is from the Dan Novotny collection; the pipe is from the Ron Sauer collection.



Figure 1 (Nahorn). Pot from Lorain County.



Figure 2 (Nahorn). Pot in Vietzen Museum.



Figures 3-4-5 (Nahorn). Effigy pipe from Erie County.